

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

I am a resident of Connecticut, a Commission Member with the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter, and I am urgently asking the Committee to oppose SB244 and support HB 5293, with an amendment.

SB 244 as written will promote a dangerous expansion to killing wildlife under the guise of protecting crops. The bill opens the door to killing any species twenty-four hours per day, 365 days a year, creating a public safety hazard and turning CT into a wildlife shooting range.

I want to thank the Committee for raising HB 5293, Prohibiting the Use of Wild and Exotic Animals in Traveling Animal Acts. It has been well documented these animals are trained using inhumane practices and have little to no protecting in existing laws. Also, please support an amendment on line 33 to remove "includes any animal that is not domesticated." Some exhibitors will use that language as a loophole to exclude from the bill's scope wild animals bred, born or raised in captivity.

I urge the Committee to please oppose SB 244 and support HB 5296 with an amendment.

Thank you,

Stephanie Malkin  
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North Branford, CT